

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification

Please amend the paragraph in the originally filed specification that begins on page 5, line 18 and continues to page 6, line 15, as follows:

FIG. 2 shows an illumination redirection arrangement according to one embodiment of the present invention having four ~~illumination~~ overillumination redirection facets. Each ~~illumination~~ overillumination redirection facet is positioned to redirect overilluminating light away from the illumination light guide, with certain facets redirecting overillumination from respective areas of an overilluminating beam. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 2, a first overillumination redirection facet 22 redirects overilluminating light from the top of an input beam 16 away from the illumination light guide 18. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 2, a first overillumination redirection facet 22 is positioned to redirect overilluminating light from the top of an input beam (top, down, left, and right directions are given from the point of view as seen in FIG. 2) to the right of the direction of travel of the input beam 16, though it is contemplated that the first overillumination redirection facet 22 could redirect overilluminating light from the top of the input beam 16 in another direction. FIG. 2 shows the second overillumination redirection facet 24 disposed to redirect overilluminating light from the left side of the input beam 16 toward the right of the direction of travel of the input beam 16. The third overillumination redirection facet 26 is shown in FIG. 2 disposed to redirect overilluminating light from the right side of the input beam 16 toward the left of the direction of travel of the input beam 16. The fourth overillumination redirection facet 28 is shown in FIG. 2 disposed to redirect overilluminating light from the bottom side of the input beam 16 toward the right of the direction of travel of the input beam 16. It is contemplated that each of the overillumination redirection facets 22, 24, 26, and 28 may be disposed to redirect overilluminating light in other directions, including above and below the direction of input, and away from rather than through the input beam, depending on particular applications of the optical format 10. More or fewer redirection facets may be employed as required by specific optical format embodiments. Any of the overillumination redirection facets may be employed to redirect a portion of the input beam 16 for use as a reference beam. As is discussed below in connection with FIG. 3, according to one embodiment of the present invention the fourth overillumination redirection facet reflects a reference beam.

Please amend the paragraph in the originally filed specification that begins on page 8, line 18 and continues to page 8, line 30, as follows:

Using the waveguided optical format 10 of the present invention, it is possible to allow an optimum optical read diameter of 0.75 mm while increasing the necessary mechanical tolerance between the format and optics to ± 0.500 mm. Further, the ability to mold an optical format with optically clear plastics significantly decreases the complexity and cost of manufacturing an optical format. While an optical format 10 of the present invention may be scaled larger or smaller in size based on particular applications, according to one embodiment the illumination light guide 44 18 has a cross-sectional area of approximately 0.50 mm^2 . With such an area, the location of an input light beam or the optical format 10 may be out of alignment by as much as ± 0.5 mm before the illumination light guide 44 18 is filled with a less-than-acceptable amount of light. Including optical components within the format itself greatly enhances the consistency of optical sample readings, particularly when small sample volumes are used.